

2023 YAKIMA COUNTY SPRING MIGRATION REPORT

This year the Yakima County migration count/birdathon spanned 4 days, May 12-15. During those 4 days, 15 participants ventured into 10 areas of the county. Eight teams scoured the county from the Columbia River south to Toppenish National Wildlife and west to the cascades on White and Chinook Passes. Cumulative effort resulted in nearly 150 (145.5) hours of birding between the eight teams! The primary areas not covered were the restricted areas of the Yakama Nation land, the small portion of Yakima County accessed from the Glenwood side of Klickitat County, and those high areas covered by snow. There was also limited coverage of the Yakima urban route due to schedules. The goal was to survey various areas in the county in order to get a snapshot of spring migration in the county. The secondary goal was to try and record as many species as possible for the county wide count.

During the 4 days, 192 species were found. Two teams broke the 100 species mark-123 on the White Pass route and 106 on the Chinook Pass route. Despite the weather conditions and the years, each year the count seems to be very consistent in the number of species. The 10-year range of species counts is 184-197 species, with an average of 190 species. This year's count of 192 species was just slightly above the 10-year average of 190. Total individuals of 6,428 was significantly below the 10-year average of 8,839. Some of this was likely due to the reduced effort in not being able to cover the Yakima section fully.

The five most common species on the count were: Cliff Swallow-739, Red-winged Blackbird-355, European Starling-223, Canada Goose-193, Barn Swallow-166. Eleven species were seen on all 9 routes (counting 9 as Yakima had such sparse coverage); California Quail, Mourning Dove, Common Raven, Western Kingbird, American Robin, European Starling, House Finch, Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird. Forty-seven species were only seen on one route. These two numbers demonstrate how widespread some species are in the county, while many species are specialists, only occurring in selected areas of the county.

Some notables are below, both in terms of highlights, misses and notable numbers.

Highlights:

Three species that have either never been recorded on the count or not in the last ten years: Canvasback, Black Tern, Acorn Woodpecker were found.

All 12 breeding species of Washington Woodpeckers/Sapsuckers were recorded on the count.

Notable species were Canvasback (4)-Wenas Lake, Clark's Grebe-Priest Rapids Lake, Semipalmated Sandpiper-SE Sector, Black Tern-SE Route (Mosebar), Acorn Woodpecker-Fort Simcoe

Notable Misses:

Northern Pintail, Greater Sage-grouse, Wild Turkey, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-eared Owl, Red Crossbill.

Notable Numbers:

Several species were substantially below average numbers, but many of those can be attributed to the lack of count in the Yakima Sector. Species highlighted below are where we had low count and the Yakima Sector is not the primary cause. Below average count of:

Cinnamon Teal (8, avg is 51.3), Gadwall (13, avg is 47.3), Ring-necked Pheasant (4, avg is 14.4), Vaux's Swift (20, avg is 85.8), Bank Swallow (125, avg is 242.2), Tree Swallow (23, avg is 165.3), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (39, avg is 154.2), Pine Siskin (2, avg is 75.4), Common Yellowthroat (5, avg is 27.3).

Above average count of:

Ruddy Duck (32, avg is 14.3), Long-billed Dowitcher (60, avg is 23.6).

Thank you to all of the counters and a special thank you to members who made their Birdathon pledge!

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CANADA GOOSE	193	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	97
WOOD DUCK	3	WILSON'S SNIBE	10
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	1	SPOTTED SANDPIPER	13
CINAMMON TEAL	8	WILSON'S PHALAROPE	4
NORTHERN SHOVELER	67	BONAPARTE'S GULL	2
GADWALL	13	RING-BILLED GULL	1
AMERICAN WIGEON	7	CALIFORNIA GULL	6
MALLARD	147	CASPIAN TERN	1
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	9	BLACK TERN	1
CANVASBACK	4	COMMON LOON	1
REDHEAD	47	DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	11
RING-NECKED DUCK	64	AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	25
GREATER SCAUP	51	AMERICAN BITTERN	2
LESSER SCAUP	8	GREAT BLUE HERON	15
HARLEQUIN DUCK	1	GREAT EGRET	4
BUFFLEHEAD	40	TURKEY VULTURE	39
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE	39	OSPREY	19
HOODED MERGANSER	1	GOLDEN EAGLE	8
COMMON MERGANSER	19	NORTHERN HARRIER	16
RUDDY DUCK	32	SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	106	COOPER'S HAWK	1
CHUKAR	13	BALD EAGLE	6
GRAY PARTRIDGE	1	SWAINSON'S HAWK	9
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	4	RED-TAILED HAWK	52
RUFFED GROUSE	2	BARN OWL	1
SOOTY GROUSE	8	FLAMMULATED OWL	4
PIED-BILLED GREBE	4	WESTERN SCREECH-OWL	1
HORNED GREBE	10	GREAT HORNED OWL	3
EARED GREBE	6	NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL	1
WESTERN GREBE	37	BARRED OWL	1
CLARK'S GREBE	3	SHORT-EARED OWL	2
ROCK PIGEON	58	NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL	2
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE	75	BELTED KINGFISHER	4
MOURNING DOVE	108	LEWIS'S WOODPECKER	65
COMMON POORWILL	3	ACORN WOODPECKER	1
VAUX'S SWIFT	20	WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER	16
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT	11	RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER	13
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD	2	RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER	1
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD	2	AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER	3
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD	6	BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER	2
CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD	3	DOWNY WOODPECKER	13
VIRGINIA RAIL	5	HAIRY WOODPECKER	8
SORA	15	WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER	9
AMERICAN COOT	67	NORTHERN FLICKER	32
BLACK-NECKED STILT	30	PILEATED WOODPECKER	6
AMERICAN AVOCET	3	AMERICAN KESTREL	25
KILLDEER	67	PEREGRINE FALCON	3
LONG-BILLED CURLEW	2	PRAIRIE FALCON	2
LEAST SANDPIPER	5	ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER	7
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER	1	WESTERN KINGBIRD	53
WESTERN SANDPIPER	2		

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OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	1	CEDAR WAXWING	20
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE	16	HOUSE SPARROW	91
HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER	49	EVENING GROSBEAK	5
GRAY FLYCATCHER	10	HOUSE FINCH	99
DUSKY FLYCATCHER	23	PURPLE FINCH	9
SAY'S PHOEBE	18	CASSIN'S FINCH	78
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	5	PINE SISKIN	2
CASSIN'S VIREO	12	LESSER GOLDFINCH	1
WARBLING VIREO	44	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	51
CANADA JAY	3	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	2
STELLER'S JAY	42	LARK SPARROW	17
CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAY	14	CHIPPING SPARROW	90
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	66	BREWER'S SPARROW	28
AMERICAN CROW	27	FOX SPARROW	1
COMMON RAVEN	81	DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO	23
HORNED LARK	70	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	12
BANK SWALLOW	12517	GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	1
TREE SWALLOW	23	SAGEBRUSH SPARROW	10
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW	68	VESPER SPARROW	46
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	39	SAVANNAH SPARROW	11
BARN SWALLOW	166	SONG SPARROW	35
CLIFF SWALLOW	739	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	5
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	17	SPOTTED TOWHEE	43
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE	70	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	10
CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE	16	YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	60
BUSHTIT	2	WESTERN MEADOWLARK	156
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	69	BULLOCK'S ORIOLE	45
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	7	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	355
PYGMY NUTHATCH	8	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	95
BROWN CREEPER	2	BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	144
ROCK WREN	9	ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	7
CANYON WREN	3	NASHVILLE WARBLER	71
HOUSE WREN	33	MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER	36
PACIFIC WREN	2	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	5
MARSH WREN	24	YELLOW WARBLER	59
BEWICK'S WREN	10	YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	105
AMERICAN DIPPER	7	TOWNSEND'S WARBLER	55
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	7	WILSON'S WARBLER	5
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	3	WESTERN Tanager	52
WESTERN BLUEBIRD	18	BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK	66
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD	5	LAZULI BUNTING	49
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	11		192
HERMIT THRUSH	16	TOTAL SPECIES	
AMERICAN ROBIN	132	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	6428
VARIED THRUSH	1		
GRAY CATBIRD	1		
SAGE THRASHER	14		
EUROPEAN STARLING	223		